



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

9 ILLEGAL ALIENS CHARGED WITH DOCUMENT FRAUD AFTER ATTEMPTING TO ENTER MILITARY AMMUNITION PLANT

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa—Special Agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) here arrested nine suspected illegal aliens after they attempted to enter the Department of Defense's Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown, Iowa, last Thursday.

All nine were criminally charged with possessing fraudulent documents today by the U.S. Attorney's office for the Southern District of Iowa.

"Our nation's security depends on controlling access to sensitive areas like military ammunition facilities," said Resident Agent-in-Charge Michael Vail, who directs Cedar Rapids ICE investigations. "Fraudulent documents enable people to establish false identities. With new identities, criminals and terrorists might ultimately be able to gain access to protected areas and critical infrastructure, like power and water plants, airports, and military bases. ICE considers combating fraudulent documents to be a national security priority."

Those charged today are from Mexico and include: Artemio Tapia-Ramirez, Francisco Garcia-Ortiz, Jose Gutierrez-Ayala, Salvador Cruz-Margarito, Raul Perez-De Los Rios, Roberto Rodriguez-Moya, Ventura Morales-Cajica, Irineo Zuniga-Sarabia, and Rutilio Mendoza-Lopez.

ICE Cedar Rapids special agents were contacted Thursday by the Des Moines County Sheriff's Office and asked for assistance in verifying the immigration documents of workers attempting to enter the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant. Special agents arrived at the plant, interviewed the men, and determined that they were in the United States illegally.

If convicted, the men could each face up to five years in prison. A judge determines the sentence based on federal sentencing guidelines.

Criminal indictments are only charges and not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.